

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet, which includes FIG. 1-3A, replaces the original sheet including FIG. 1-3A. In Figure 1, the arrow heads and lead lines for reference numerals 14 have been corrected such that they are in alignment.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Remarks

Claims 10-16, 18-20, 22-25 and 29-38 were pending. Claims 10, 24, 25, and 36 have been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Thus claims 10-16, 18-20, 22-25 and 29-38 are subject to continued examination.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner states that the drawing of Figure 11 constitutes new matter because there is no support in the original disclosure for the exact curved shape of joints 16'. The Examiner suggests that this deficiency may be obviated by specifying that Figure 11 is a "schematic" representation. Applicants have amended page 19 of the specification to reflect this suggestion. Furthermore, the Examiner requests that a brief description of Figure 11 be included. Applicants have added this to page 8 of the specification.

The Examiner points out that in Figure 1, the arrow heads and lead lines for reference numeral 14 do not align. A new formal drawing sheet containing FIG. 1 has been submitted and it is hoped that this will remedy the problem. Applicants respectfully submit that the changes to the drawing do not add new matter to the application.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Specifically, the Examiner

maintains that the applicant fails to show the jacquard weave of claims 24 and 32 and interconnected joints in the weft direction of claim 38. Applicants submit that a jacquard weave is merely a system of weaving that utilizes a highly versatile pattern mechanism to permit the production of large, intricate designs.

Furthermore, applicants believe that it is unnecessary to depict a jacquard weave since it is a conventional method of weaving complex designs and would be readily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art and detailed illustration is not essential for a proper understanding of the invention. Moreover, applicants point out that interconnected joints in the weft direction are depicted in FIG. 6, the brief description of which (pg. 8) clearly states that the joint extends in the weft direction.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claims 10-16, 24 and 36-38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 10 has been amended such that there is antecedent basis for "the weft direction" and "the warp direction". Claim 24 has been amended to specify "first and second yarns" instead of "yarns". Claim 36 has been amended and rewritten such that it is a single sentence and "and/or" has been removed. Applicants respectfully submit that such amendments obviate any continued rejection on this basis. Consequently, applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 10-16,

24 and 36-38 on the basis of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, should not be maintained.

Anticipation Rejections

Claims 10-12, 14-15, 18-19, 22, 25, 29, 31, 33-34 and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Buchner et al. (US 3,792,873). Continued rejection on these grounds is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim (MPEP § 2131).

As best understood, Buchner discloses an air bag cushion derived from a double woven fabric in which seams are formed by weaving together superimposed, narrowly limited regions of two sections of woven fabric material on a loom (Col. 3, lines 53-55). FIG. 4 illustrates details of the connecting seams between two sections of fabric. As can be clearly seen in the drawing, the first layer of fabric consists of warp thread 21 and woof (weft) thread 24 and the second layer of fabric consists of warp thread 22 and woof (weft) thread 25. Looking from right to left, even after the seam, the first layer still consists of warp thread 21 and weft thread 24 and the second layer still consists of warp thread 22 and woof thread 25. There is no crossover of warp and/or weft threads between first and second layers as is

specified in the instant claims. Claim 10 specifies that “at least some of said weft yarns comprising crossover yarns, crossover yarns of said first layer switching from a position within said first layer to a position within said second layer at said first interconnected joint, said crossover yarns further switching from a position within said second layer to a position within said first layer at said second interconnected joint”. Similarly, Claim 18 delineates that “joints are defined by yarns alternating from a position in said first layer to a position in second layer”, Claim 25 specifies “yarn crossover between said first and second layers”, Claim 31 describes “yarns forming crossovers from one of said first and second layers to the other of said layers at said joints”, and Claim 36 teaches “each of said joint seams being formed by weaving the warp and weft yarns that are previously contained in the first layer, and using them to form the second layer and simultaneously weaving the yarns previously contained in the second layer, and using them to form the first layer, thus forming a crossover”. Clearly, the crossover yarns are neither expressly nor inherently depicted in the cited reference and consequently, applicants respectfully request that the anticipation rejections should not be maintained.

Obviousness Rejections

Claims 13, 16, 20, 24, 30, 32, 35, and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Buchner et al. Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Buchner et al. in view of Thornton et al. (US

5,098,125). Continued rejection on these grounds is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness there must be some suggestion or motivation that would lead to the claimed invention. The suggestion or motivation may derive from the references themselves or from the knowledge generally available to those of skill in the art. In addition, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art (MPEP § 2142). Applicants respectfully submit that these standards are not met with regard to the claims as now presented.

The Examiner explains that Buchner lacks joints separated by no more than four yarns but maintains that it would have been obvious to modify Buchner to reduce the separation of the joints to no more than four yarns. As discussed in reference to the anticipation rejection, Buchner et al. does not teach or suggest crossover of yarns from the first and second layers at the interconnected joints. Consequently, Buchner does not address one of the central limitations in the instant claims.

Moreover, the Examiner states that Buchner et al. lacks the dobby construction delineated in Claim 23. However, Thornton teaches an air bag cushion having interwoven fabric layers woven on an electronic or computer controlled dobby or harness regulator. Therefore, the examiner maintains that it would be obvious to modify Buchner in view of Thornton. Neither reference depicts crossover of yarns

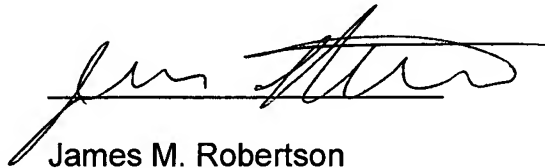
between the first and second layers at the joints such that yarns of the first layer become yarns of the second layer and vice versa. Consequently, the cited references, alone or in combination, fail to meet the requirements of *prima facie* obviousness.

Conclusion:

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims now stand in condition for allowance. Should any issues remain after consideration of this Amendment and accompanying Remarks, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned in the hope that any such issue may be promptly and satisfactorily resolved.

In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers (including extension of time fees), authorization is hereby provided to withdraw such fees from Deposit Account No. 50-1424.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James M. Robertson', is written over a horizontal line.

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